

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006141

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 6141 ACTION LISBON 10 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006141

EXDIS

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF MPLA; CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES

REF.: A) LISBON 176 B) LISBON 154 C) LISBON 142

D) FBIS 107, 1/8/76

FOR CHARGE

1. PLEASE SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE
HIGH LEVEL OFFICER AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CONVEY TO GOP
OUR REACTION TO THE JANUARY 8 ETATEMENT ON THE CUBAN
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TRANSIT OF THE AZORES. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING

POINTS:

-- WE ARE DISTRESSED BY AMBIGUITIES IN THE STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN JUSTIFIED FLIGHTS

OF SO-CALLED ROUTINE, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT BY ASSERTING THAT THE PASSENGERS WERE NOT MILITARY.

-- THERE CAN

BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THE MILITARY PURPOSES OF THESE PASSENGERS.

--WE

HOPE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY WEAKENING IN THE PORTUGUESE POLICY OF NEUTRALITY RE THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ANY

SUCH WEAKENING WOULD BE A REJECTION OF PORTUGAL'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN AFRICA, WOULD SERIOUSLY HARM EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH UNITARY GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA, AND WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE LARGE STORE OF SYMPATHY WHICH CURRENTLY EXISTS IN THE US FOR PORTUGAL AND ITS PROBLEMS.

2. DRAWING UPON PREVIOUS BACKGROUND TELEGRAMS, EMBASSY SHOULD USE ITS RESOURCES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, THE MILITARY AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO PREVENT WHAT SEEMS TO BE A CHANGE IN PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD IMMINENT RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA. FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED:

THE US POSITION ON ANGOLA HAS NOT CHANGED NOR WILL IT. WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AND WE CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ANGOLA. PORTUGAL HAS, IN OUR VIEW, SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ON THIS QUESTION. THE ALVOR AGREEMENT PLEDGED PORTUGAL TO A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY VIS A VIS THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE ONLY POSITION WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN ANGOLA. A SOVIET FOOTHOLD IN ANGOLA SHOULD BE OF GREAT CONCERN
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NOT ONLY TO THE US BUT TO ALL OF OUR NATO ALLIES. PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA COULD ISOLATE PORTUGAL AS THE ONLY WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT TO DO SO.

3. WE WILL CALL IN THE PORTUGUESE CHARGE AND MAKE THESE SAME POINTS. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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